

## Reviews

### COLOURED ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE INSECTS OF JAPAN. COLEOPTERA

*Edited by* THE KINKI COLEOPTEROLOGICAL SOCIETY. Hoikusha Co., Japan, 1955. 228 pp., 68 colored plates. \$6.50 USA.

This is a remarkable collection of good colored illustrations of several hundred Japanese beetle species, perhaps the finest and greatest number to be published since the *Biologia Centrali-Americana*, many of them approaching *Biologia* quality. The accompanying text describing the beetles illustrated is entirely in Japanese, except that Latin names are given for the species. Unfortunately there is no index to the Latin names so that those unable to read Japanese will find it difficult to locate the names of the species illustrated.

The book has been issued in two editions. The first edition (dated 1954) contains a few plates of unsuitable and exotic species. It also contains descriptions of several new forms (listed below) which are described in English. From the standpoint of the taxonomist then, the first edition is more important because the second edition has been printed omitting the descriptions of the new species, as should be, as well as the unsatisfactory plates. However, five new plates have been added.

The new forms described in the book are: p. 24, *Gaurotes thalassina* var. *aureopupurea* Hayashi; p. 31, *Eustrangalis distenoides* ab. *anticereductus* Hayashi; p. 33, *Leptura latipennis* f. *trigonata* Hayashi; p. 34, *Strangalia shikokensis* f. *kaznoi* Hayashi and *S. s.* f. *kii* Hayashi; p. 49, *Anaglyptus* (*Anaglyptus*) *subfasciatus* var. *rufescens* Hayashi p. 52, *Molorchus minor* f. *fuscus* Hayashi; p. 54, *Molorchus* (*Linomius*) *mizoguchii* Hayashi; p. 55, *Mesechthistatus binodosus* f. *insularis* Hayashi; p. 56, *Monochamus subfasciatus* var. *meridianus* Hayashi (all Cerambycidae); p. 80, *Hikohohodemia* Nakane and Hayashi (Genotype: *Hikohohodemia nomurai* sp. nov., allied to *Dircaea* Fabricius and *Ploetrya* Stephens); p. 81, *Hikohohodemia nomurai* Nakane and Hayashi, *Melandrya quadrisignata* Nakane and Hayashi, *Melandrya flavipennis* Nakane and Hayashi, *Melandrya duodecimmaculata* Nakane and Hayashi (all Melandryidae); p. 106, *Coptoderina osakana* Nakane, Ohkura and S. Uéno (Carabidae); p. 154, *Xanthochroa atriceps* subsp. *shikokuana* Iga and Nakane; p. 155, *Chrysanthia viatica* ab. *obscuricolor* Iga and Nakane (all Oedemeridae); p. 183, *Onthophagus japonicus* ab. *testaceipennis* Iga and Goto (Scarabaeidae).

The book is well bound in cloth with a full color illustration of two species of scarabs on the front cover. The dust jacket also has full

color illustrations of additional scarabs, a pair. The book slips into a box which also has full color illustrations of several species of beetles, a plate on each side of the box.

When one compares the quality of these illustrations with the insect illustrations that appeared recently in LIFE magazine, one wonders how it is possible to produce a book of this nature at the low price of \$6.50. We can only conclude that more persons are interested in insects in Japan than in the United States for it appears that such a publication would be impossible to produce in this country, at least without very heavy subsidization.

Even if you do not read Japanese, and most of us don't, a copy of the volume would be useful and can be obtained by writing to: Hoikusha Co., 1-chome, Uchi-kyuhoji-cho, Higashi-ku, Osaka, Japan.

R. H. ARNETT, JR.

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#### CENTRAL ASIATIC CARABUS

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By O. L. KRYZANOWSKII. [Russian title: ZUZELICY SREDNEI AZII (ROD CARABUS)]. Akademia Nauk CCCR. Opredeleye po faunye CCCR isdavanyoye Zoologicheskim Institutom CCCR no. 52, 132 pp., 110 illustration, index. Moskva-Leningrad, 1953.

This work covers Central Asiatic species of the genus *Carabus*. First

30 pages are devoted to general morphology, biology, ecology, and biogeography of these beetles, the balance to systematics. Each species or subspecies is described in detail preceded by quite elongated key made up of 194 dichotomies.

The author points out that the life histories of most *Carabus* species are very imperfectly known, in spite of their economic importance as chief predators on the nematod and trematod bearing Mollusca.

Systematically Kryzanowskii divides them into two groups: brevimandibulate and longimandibulate. He discusses in great length the faunal relationships. Central Asiatic *Carabus* fauna is remarkable for its endemicity. Out of a total of 97 species and 20 subspecies no less than 89 species are endemic. Only 8 spread outside Central Asia including 3 (*C. granulatus*, *cicatricosus*, and *clathratus*) into Central Europe. Dzunggharia has 62 forms (58 endemic), Western Tian-Shan 16 (13 endemic) and Pamiro-Altai 17 (15 endemic). Steppes of Kazakstan have only 6.

Two species are described as new: *C. grigorjewi* and *Trachycarabus mandibularis buchtarmensis*. Discussing distribution of *C. granulatus* the author does not seem aware of its introduction and establishment in North America.

The work is entirely in Russian without a summary in any other language. BORYS MALKIN